THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The consumption of cotton to man made fibre/yarn is 60:40 in India as compared to world ratio of 46:54.

(b) and (c) The consumption/use of textiles (man made fibres), primarily depends on cost, quality, consumer preferences, climate etc. However, the ratio of consumption of non cotton fibres/yarn to cotton fibres is gradually increasing in favour of non cotton fibres/yarn. Export of cotton/cotton products with high value addition, depends on various factors, *viz*, price competitiveness, quality, adherence to delivery schedules, customer satisfaction etc. Export of cotton during the current year has been estimated 1.5 lakh bales in comparison to 1 lakh bales during the last year. The export of cotton products with high value addition has increased during the period April, 1999 to January, 2000 by 3.8% over the corresponding period of the last year. The Government has taken several steps to boost export of cotton/cotton textiles.

VRS Scheme for APKK&M Workmen

2280. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) how many mills are currently engaged in productive operations, out of the 16 textile mills under APKK&M, a subsidiary of the NTC; and

(b) the reason which compelled the management to grant VRS to a vast majority of workmen, leaving behind a negligible number of workers and staff in the mills, which made it impossible to carry out productive operations or close down, in some of the mills under APKK&M?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per the information available only 8 mills are currently engaged in productive operations out of the 16 mills under NTC (APKK&M).

(b) There was no operation in majority of the mills even before they were taken over by the Government with a view to maintain the production level of cheap cloth and its distribution at fair prices. The mills have been incurring losses because of old and obsolete machinery, lack of modernisation, excess labour force, poor work culture, high fixed costs, competition with powerloom sector and continued shortage of working capital.

Due to continued losses and shortage of working capital, many mills under NTC (APKK&M) were forced to curtail production activities. Keeping in

view the fact that NTC (APKK&M) with all its mills stood referred to BIFR, a conscious decision was taken to allow VRS in these mills in case majority of the workers wanted to opt for VRS.

Tackling the Sickness of NTC Units

2281. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised any plan to tackle the sickness problem of NTC units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) what are the number of NTC units which are now closed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them keeping in view the BIFR norms of net worth of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the Revival Plan.

(c) Except Ajudhia Textile Mills which was closed in pursuance of order of Hon'ble Supreme Court on polluting industries no other NTC mills has been closed though some of the mills are not operating.

Export of Readymade Garments

†2282. PROF. RAM BAKHSH SINGH VARMA:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge quantity of readymade garments are being exported by India to foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and names of those countries where these items are being exported;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.